

for the basic services are now withdrawing by not paying the Licence fees within the stipulated time;

(b) if so, the names of such bidders and amount of security deposit, the last date for paying the Licence fees; and

(c) whether Bank guarantee provided by them is likely to be encashed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b). No. Sir.

(c) Bank Guarantees provided by the bidders are liable to be encashed only if the bidders fail to sign the licence agreement and pay the licence fee and other dues by the stipulated date set by the Government.

[Translation]

Tourist Places

932. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH :
SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI :
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) the tourist places in the country where maximum number of foreign tourists visited;

(b) whether all the modern facilities are available on the said tourist places;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the number of complaints lodged by these visitors and nature thereof;

(e) the action taken by the authorities on these complaints; and

(f) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to encourage inflow of more foreign tourists into the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) According to a survey of foreign tourist conducted during 1998-89, the top ten places visited by the foreign tourists in the country are :

- (i) Bombay
- (ii) Delhi
- (iii) Madras
- (iv) Agra
- (v) Jaipur
- (vi) Goa
- (vii) Calcutta
- (viii) Bangalore
- (ix) Trivandrum-Kovalam
- (x) Udaipur

(b) and (c). The development of modern infrastructural facilities is an ongoing process and is being achieved. Some financial assistance is provided to State Governments and private investment is also encouraged in this regard. However, the resources available for the development of such facilities are limited.

(d) and (e). During last year, 117 complaints were received by the Department of Tourism. These complaints, mostly from overseas tourists, include inadequate road and air services, cheating by shop-keepers and inconveniences suffered by tourists. These complaints have been acknowledged and enquiries are made either directly or through the concerned Departments. A small cell has also been set up in the Department of Tourism to deal with such complaints.

(f) Steps taken by the Government to encourage inflow of foreign tourists include improvement of infrastructural facilities, development of tourist attractions and strengthening of Publicity and Promotional efforts.

[English]

Modernisation of Tourist Centres

933. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to modernise/beautify the pilgrimage, tourist places, Rajgriha and Nalanda;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). The Government has entered into a soft loan agreement with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) Japan in December, 1988 for the development of infrastructural facilities along the identified Buddhist travel circuits in U.P. and Bihar. The financial assistance is to the tune of 7.76 billion Japanese Yen.

The places identified in Bihar are : Bodhgaya, Nalanda, Rajgir and Vaishali. The major component of the project are strengthening of National and State highways, improvement of local roads, landscaping, augmentation of water and electricity supply, setting up of wayside amenities.

All the works taken up under this project are in progress.

Special Schemes for Attracting Tourists

934. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to bring special schemes to attract tourists for areas like